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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/64/420). Action on sub-item (i) was taken at the 35th and 41st meetings, on 17 November and 9 December 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.35 and 41).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.33 and A/C.2/64/L.60

2. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" (A/C.2/64/L.33), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005 and 62/197 of 19 December 2007 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/64/420 and Add.1-9.

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"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Noting* that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 made a contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources of energy can play in the global energy supply,

"*Reiterating* the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') concerning energy for sustainable development,

"*Recalling* the thematic debate of the General Assembly on energy efficiency, energy conservation and new and renewable sources of energy, held on 28 June 2009,

"*Welcoming* the offer of the Government of India to host the International Renewable Energy Conference in New Delhi from 27 to 29 October 2010,

"*Welcoming also* initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing* that the development of new and renewable energy could play a significant role in the diversification of the energy matrix, achieving greater efficiency of energy production and consumption, accelerating economic growth and employment, with equity and social integration, ensuring energy access and availability, promoting energy cooperation and integration, rendering environmental benefits and achieving sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Acknowledging* that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer important options for the provision of energy for sustainable development and increased access to modern energy services,

"*Noting* that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

"*Recognizing* the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

"*Noting* that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential, and

underscoring in this regard the need to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Emphasizing* the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Reaffirming* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

"*Acknowledging* that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

"*Welcoming* efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

"*Noting with appreciation* the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which aims at promoting the diffusion and sustainable use of renewable energy,

"*Noting with appreciation also* regional mechanisms and initiatives for energy cooperation and integration to encourage the use of new and renewable sources of energy, such as the PetroCaribe Alternative Energy Source Financing Fund, the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme and the New Partnership for Africa's Development energy initiative, inter alia,

"*Noting with concern* that millions of poor people in developing countries are unable to afford to pay for modern energy services, even when those services are available,

"*Emphasizing* the urgent need to remove barriers at all levels to the promotion and use of renewable energy,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase the share of new and renewable energy in the global energy supply matrix;

"3. Reaffirms the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"4. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into

consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

"5. *Also emphasizes* the need to intensify research in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

"6. *Further emphasizes* the need to accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, and new and renewable energy technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms;

"7. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy, and calls on the international community to support those efforts in developing countries;

"8. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

"9. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

"10. *Welcomes* the efforts of some developing countries to establish national voluntary renewable energy and energy efficiency targets;

"11. *Calls upon* developed countries to significantly increase financial resources and provide technology transfer and capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

"13. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, the small island developing States and African countries in their efforts to develop and utilize new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance and capacity-building;

"14. *Further calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of developing countries that are already developing and utilizing their energy resources, including new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to maintaining efficient and sustainable production of energy;

"15. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

"16. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

"17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

"18. *Recognizes* the need to provide financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology, to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve access to affordable modern energy services and new and renewable energy for economic growth, human and social development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

"20. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution taking into account the views of Member States on actions taken towards and challenges to creating an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of renewable energy;

"22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy'."

3. At its 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy"

(A/C.2/64/L.60), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Denise McQuade (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.33.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.60.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur orally corrected the draft resolution by merging the twenty-first and twenty-second preambular paragraphs.

7. Also at its 41st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.60, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.60, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.33 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005 and 62/197 of 19 December 2007 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Reiterating the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and of Agenda 21,[3] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] concerning energy for sustainable development,

Recalling with appreciation the Interactive Thematic Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on "Energy Efficiency, Energy Conservation and New and Renewable Sources of Energy" held on 18 June 2009 and its contribution to the intergovernmental dialogue on energy issues,

Welcoming the political impetus recently given to the development of new and renewable sources of energy worldwide, including in particular in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition,

Welcoming also the offer of the Government of India to host the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference from 27 to 29 October 2010,

Welcoming further initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that the development of new and renewable energy plays a significant role in the diversification of the energy mix, achieving greater energy efficiency, supporting and accelerating economic growth and social development, creating employment opportunities, ensuring energy access and availability, promoting energy cooperation and rendering environmental benefits, thus

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

contributing to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer increased access to modern energy services,

Noting that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

Recognizing that the current share of new and renewable energy in the global energy supply is still low, which is due, among other factors, to the high costs of many renewable energy technologies, particularly in their development phase, and underlining the critical contribution that a rapid reduction in these costs could make to the promotion of such technologies,

Recognizing the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

Noting that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential despite recent increase, and underlining in this regard the need to continue to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

Emphasizing the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Acknowledging that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Welcoming efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which aims at promoting the diffusion and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Noting also with appreciation regional mechanisms and initiatives for energy cooperation and integration to encourage the use of new and renewable sources of energy such as, inter alia, the PetroCaribe Alternative Energy Source Financing Fund, the Mesoamerican integration and development project, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme, the energy initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Mediterranean Solar Plan, the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership, the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation, and the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate,

Noting with concern that millions of poor people are unable to afford to pay for modern energy services, even when those services are available, and emphasizing the need to address the challenge of access to and affordability of modern energy services for all, in particular the poor,

Emphasizing the need to promote an enabling environment for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including through the removal of obstacles at all levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Stresses* the urgent need to continue to increase the share of new and renewable energy in the global energy mix;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[4] as the intergovernmental framework for sustainable development;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in the most rapid reduction of the cost of new and renewable energy and increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development, in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

7. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

8. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the

[5] A/64/277.

increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

9. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of some Member States to establish national voluntary new and renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, and encourages others to do the same;

11. *Encourages* Member States to make greater use of effective policy tools such as voluntary national, subnational or regional goals, programmes and targets, as appropriate, to increase access to energy, energy efficiency and the share of renewable energies;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

14. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in their efforts to develop and utilize new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance and capacity-building;

15. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

16. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system, and acknowledges the role of UN-Energy in promoting system-wide collaboration in the area of energy;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the increased role they can

play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

19. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the initiatives taken by Member States and international organizations to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including measures to improve access to such technologies;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".